

SPORTS

Cyclones fizzle against Dirty Boyz, lose game 19-12

CPL. ALISHA R. FITZGERALD
STAFF WRITER

The Dirty Boyz defeated the Cyclones 19-12 in Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina intramural football action at the Depot football field Oct. 30.

The win enabled the Boyz to keep their third-place position in the league standings with an 8-4 record.

Although the Cyclones remain in sixth place, they gave the Boyz a run for their money on the field, putting the first few points on the board before the Boyz could get their offense going.

“We could’ve done a lot better,” said Jermaine Parlow, a receiver for the Boyz. “We came together a little late in the game. We’re still developing as a team.”

Better late than never for the Boyz, according to Parlow, who attributed the come-from-behind win to his teammates staying focused until the final whistle.

The Cyclones felt they had the win in the bag, however, and said that the Boyz’ comeback was a fluke.

“Coming into the game, our focus was to play them tight,” said Maurice Cottman, the quarterback for the Cyclones. “We played well. They just got lucky.”

Cottman was sure he and his

teammates had the Boyz’ number, but the game got away from them in the end, though he was not impressed with their opponents’ skill level.

“We needed to control their run game,” he said. “It wasn’t much of one, but it worked for them late in the game. They couldn’t pass to save their lives.”

Despite the comments, the Boyz have managed to stay afloat as one of the best teams in the league. Only CVIC and Clothing hold better records.

“We could be ranked higher, but I’m not going to complain,” said Parlow. “We’re in third place and we plan to go all the way in the playoffs. Why would we hope for anything less?”

Parlow scored two of the Boyz’ touchdowns and quarterback Danny Thomas scored one.

Meanwhile, the Cyclones continue to make slow, but steady progress in their fight to the top. They knocked off second-place Hospital at the field Oct. 27, forcing them to move down two slots in the standings.

A near win over the Boyz, a win over the Hospital and a lack of a full roster have produced mixed feelings among the Cyclones about what their standings actually represent.

“Our record means nothing,”



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald

said Cottman. “If we have all our players, we can beat any team.”

Clothing remains the team to beat, as the team maintains the first-place position.

The Cyclones will not get another shot at the league leader, unless they match up in the playoffs.

The Boyz are scheduled to face Clothing Tuesday, during the final week of the regular season.



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(Above) Tony Johnson, a receiver for the Cyclones, misses a catch intended for him as Danny Thomas, the quarterback for the Dirty Boyz, fights to deflect the ball during an intramural flag football game at the Depot football field Oct. 30. (Left) Johnson tries to evade the tackle of a Dirty Boyz defender. The Boyz won the game 19-12, improving their record to 8-4.



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Robert Handley, receiver for the Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina 11-12-year-old Steelers, keeps defenders at bay as he gains yardage during his team’s last game of the season against the Hilton Head Gators Saturday at the Depot football field. The Steelers won the game 21-14, wrapping up their season with a 5-3 record.

PI Steelers take two from Hilton Head

CPL. ALISHA R. FITZGERALD
STAFF WRITER

Both age groups of the Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina Steelers defeated the Hilton Head Gators in their last regular season games of the Beaufort Parks and Leisure Services Youth Football League at the Depot football field Saturday.

The 8-10-year-old Steelers won 24-12, to finish second place in their division at 6-2. The 11-12-year-old Steelers followed suit, defeating the Gators 21-14. They finished the season 5-3, third in their division.

The wins supplied a welcomed sense of satisfaction for both Steelers teams, after being beaten the last time they faced off.

“The boys played exceptionally well,” said Henry Pennington, the coach of the younger Steelers team. “They beat us in the season opener 6-0. That made this victory especially sweet, since we were able to get back at them.”

Eric Boyles, the quarterback for the 8-10-year-olds, scored two of his team’s touchdowns against the Gators. While Dwian Norman, wingback, and Tyron Lacure, tailback, scored one apiece.

Pennington explained that his players had come a long way since their initial kickoff, which lent to some of their end-of-the-season success.

“The boys have matured and learned a great deal this season,” he said. “I am really impressed with the way we have come together and worked as a team. The difference between the first game and this last game was tremendous, and illustrated the improvements that we’ve made.”

Pennington began the year with the goal of ensuring that each player learned the fundamentals of football. He ended up achieving his goal and then some.

“On top of accomplishing what I set out to,

“The boys went into the season as underdogs. We had to ask some of the small guys to play on the line. Then, we had games where our quarterback was sick and literally throwing up on the sideline, and came back in to throw two touchdown passes for the win. They showed a tremendous amount of heart and passion, and that’s something you cannot teach.”
-Timothy Gardner, the 11-12-year-old Steelers’ coach

we ended up with a positive winning season,” he said. “Having coached football here for six years, I have to say that this has probably been the best overall team I have seen.”

Timothy Gardner, the 11-12-year-old Steelers’ coach, was pleased with the way his team blossomed as well. He attributed his last win of the season to the experience his players gained from the beginning of the season to the end.

“Thinking back to when we played [the Gators] back then, we had first-game jitters and they were a lot bigger than us,” he said. “We seemed a little intimidated, but with seven games worth of experience and even undermanned, we held our own this game. Our defense made plays when they had to, and our offense responded

every time they scored.”

Robert Handley, a receiver for the older Steelers team, responded twice, as he caught two different touchdown passes from quarterback Jerome McClain, one from 40 yards and one from 25. He scored 14 of his team’s 21 points. Running back Trey Boyles completed the scoring effort when he caught a 50-yard touchdown pass from McClain.

Gardner’s team faced a lot of obstacles to finally end up with a more than 60 percent win percentage. The team’s roster originally held 18 players, but dwindled to about 12 around mid-season. The team was also plagued with injuries, forcing many players to play both offense and defense, as well as unfamiliar positions. However, Gardner said that the most challenging obstacle the team had to overcome was the fact that most had never even played tackle football before this season.

He elaborated on how his players were able to overcome such adversities using one tool.

“The boys went into the season as underdogs,” he said. “We had to ask some of the small guys, like Zach Barrett and Tyrell Norman, to play on the line. Then, we had games where our quarterback was sick and literally throwing up on the sideline, and came back in to throw two touchdown passes for the win. Some of them were forced to make tackles on boys that outweighed them by 20-30 pounds. They showed a tremendous amount of heart and passion, and that’s something you cannot teach.”

Out of the three losses that the older Steelers had this season, two of them were from teams that they later came back to defeat.

“That lets me know that maybe if we had been more mentally prepared, we might have ended up 7-1,” said Gardner.

Both Steelers teams begin their playoff battle Saturday at the Depot football field.

Basketball season travels to Air Station for Tri-Command play

Basketball season, rivalries begin Wednesday as 25 teams begin another season of competition

CPL. THOMAS PERRY
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If you are a hardcore basketball junkie or just love to compete, your chance for hoop glory is a lay-up away. Right now there are 25 teams from the Depot, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Naval Hospital Beaufort that will faceoff for the chance to compete in the command’s version of March Madness this spring.

Does your team have what it takes? Will we win it all? Will my significant other let me play? These are all important questions you should ask yourself before becoming involved in four months of basketball bliss.

Unfortunately for Depot Marines, the first half of the season will be played at the Air Station’s gymnasium since construction on the Depot gym has not been completed.

Jeff Epstein, the Depot intramural sports coordinator, said that the gym is scheduled to be done Dec. 15, but believes that date to be unrealistic. He hopes that once the construction is complete, half of the games can be played here making it easier for Depot Marines to attend.

Last Season’s Recap

Over Thirty quieted the trash-talkers and the skeptics when they made good on their prediction to finish as the top intramural basketball team by winning the playoff championship over H&HS PMO, 66-44, at the Air Station’s Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex March 13.

PMO surprised a few people by making it to the championship round. They finished the season 14-6, behind SJA,

CSSD-23 and Thirty. Since PMO was handed their first loss of the tournament by Thirty after their initial post-season match-up, they faced a hard road to emerge as the ultimate champion. They would have had to win three games in a row, defeating Thirty twice on the last night of the tournament.

“The game against PMO was one that we felt confident we would win, especially since they had just played a tough game right before playing us,” said Benjamin McAllister, forward for Over Thirty.

The infamous CSSD, league leader with a flawless record the entire season, was nowhere to be found in the semi-finals or the finals of the playoffs. Surprisingly, their absence was disappointing not only to them, but to those who were anticipating a final showdown with the virtual untouchables.

“The games [in the playoffs] were exciting, but I wish we would have played CSSD again,” said McAllister. “I think they are a good team, no doubt. They just lost focus on what they needed to do to get to the championship.”

As of Jan. 17, both CSSD and Over Thirty were still undefeated, but so was the Naval Hospital and SJA. The others’ standings didn’t deaden Thirty’s aspirations of finishing in the top spot then or at tournament time. They believed they had the best mix of chemistry and experience out of all the others. For a team that never practices, they relied solely on this to carry them through to the championship.

“The season all and all was great,” said McAllister. “I learned a lot from my teammates and my coach. I just hope we can come together again next year and repeat.”

Whether they will repeat or not will not be answered for months. They will be fighting against their age and the fact that everyone will be gunning for last year’s champion.